



## Cell Phone Safety

### A Convenience and a Risk

Cellular phones have become essential components of our everyday lives. They make life easier and provide a level of safety and contact. However, the use of cell phones may be hazardous in certain situations, such as walking up or down ladders or in areas that may have a fall risk, such as an edge or an opening in the floor and while driving. While they provide convenience, cell phones require one's attention to be divided among tasks, and this can lead to danger.

### How can the use of cell phones compromise safety?

- Reduce situational awareness (if used for private matters on the job) and attention is divided
- Increase risk if the cellular phone is not intrinsically safe in a restricted area
- Demonstrate a willingness to assume a higher level of risk associated with the use of the cellular phone
- Project a disregard for company procedures or policies
- Interfere with ship's equipment

### How can cell phone safety be enhanced?

- Find out the ship procedures on cellular phone usage
- Use common sense; maintain situational awareness and vigilance to regulate personal use and storage of phones during ship visits
- Store phones (power down or at least turn off ringers) during embarking and disembarking the vessel
- Store phones during cargo sampling and when in restricted or hazardous areas

### Where Can I Use a Cell Phone?

- Use is generally permitted in the accommodations spaces
- Each organization has their own rules
- Look for posted notices about safe and unsafe cell phone areas
- Keep out of areas that could distract from navigation and operations



### Example of Cell Phone Related Near Miss:

*Discussion:* While taking stores from a barge alongside, the crane operator on the barge moved the wrong control while lowering a pallet of goods onto the vessel's deck. The crew members who were guiding the pallet were nearly overcome by the improper slew. While they were getting out of the way their fingers were nearly crushed.



## COLD WEATHER HAZARDS

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*Observation:* It was noticed immediately that the crane operator was talking on his cell phone while operating the crane.

*Lessons:* Full attention should be common practice while running machinery or cranes. There should be no distractions. Even though the crane operator was not a crew member, work should have stopped while crane operator used his cell phone and none of the ship's crew should have assisted until the cell phone was put away. This incident was communicated with the vendor.

Safety is a personal responsibility. Where policies and procedures fail to provide adequate instruction, it is up to the individual to take precautions. Inquire about ship procedures; comply with those policies, and Always Be Safe.

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